

“Revolutionary Epigones: The Debate Between Kant and his Radical Followers”

Dr Reidar Maliks
Oriol College, University of Oxford

<http://www.oriel.ox.ac.uk/content/455>

Reidar Maliks (PhD, Columbia, 2008) is Junior Research Fellow at Oriol College, University of Oxford, where he works on both the history of political thought and contemporary normative political theory. His teaching covers classic texts in ethics and political thought from Plato to Rawls, as well as social theory from Adam Smith to Habermas. He is currently working on a book on Kant's politics in context.

Dr Maliks' paper explores key aspects of Kant's political thought which have hitherto received relatively little attention. In particular, the relation between Kant and his immediate followers is explored, whilst understanding this as necessarily conditioned by a late-18th century German intellectual culture dramatically polarized by the French Revolution. Kant's ambiguous and complex response to the events of 1789, and his failure to straightforwardly endorse the Revolution, is of great scholarly interest and importance in its own right. Yet it is further enriched – and better understood – by focusing not only on Kant's own writings, but on the immediate reactions Kant elicited. But more than this, Dr Maliks shows that Kant's pursuit of his political and moral project was not the only one available to those working within Kant's metaphysical and moral framework, and that his “radical” followers pioneered alternative visions which departed in important ways from those of their great intellectual forbearer.

Selected Publications

- 'Prussian Polis: Kant's Democratic Republicanism,' *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, Vol. 35, No. 4, 2009: 427-445.
- 'Acting Through Others: Kant and the Exercise View of Representation,' in *Public Reason*, Vol. 1, No 1, 2009: 9-26.
- Book review of Jonathan Israel's *A Revolution of the Mind: Radical Enlightenment and the Intellectual Origins of Modern Democracy*, in *Public Reason*, June 2010.
- 'Kant's Attempt at Connecting Inner and Outer Freedom,' accepted for inclusion in *Proceedings of the XI International Kant Congress 2010*.
- 'The State of Freedom: Kant's Response to His Conservative Critics,' accepted for inclusion in *Freedom and the Construction of Europe*, edited by Quentin Skinner, Cambridge University Press 2011.

Research Interests

- A book project entitled *Making the Center Hold: Kant on Sovereignty and Revolution*. This is part of the Anglo-German project on the 'State of the State' at Oxford.

- A research project on the concept of solidarity in historical and systematic perspective with attention to implications for dilemmas in the study of the welfare state, multi-cultural polities, and global justice.
- A project on Kant's concept of freedom, part of the network on *Freedom and the Construction of Europe*, organized by Quentin Skinner. See <http://freedomeurope.wordpress.com/about/> (completed).